

July 22, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

Minority communities living in urban areas rely upon low-cost telephone services to accomplish many every day tasks, from looking for a job or affordable housing to staying in touch with family and friends. I am concerned that the FCC is considering new charges and fees upon pre-paid calling cards, which would raise prices for consumers nationwide.

In particular, minority consumers living on fixed incomes or those without the means necessary to subscribe to local telephone service rely on prepaid calling cards to stay connected at set, affordable rates. Students, immigrants, senior citizens, military personnel, and others face similar challenges.

As a result, prepaid calling cards often are the only option available – without them, some consumers would, quite literally, be out of choices for staying connected. Raising the price of prepaid services will directly harm those that can least afford price increases.

Imposing new charges and fees would amount to a substantial increase in the per-minute cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards to many consumers in our community. Allowing the large, local telephone companies to collect such charges, even when they do not sell the calling card to a customer, would drive up prices and would make these services substantially less affordable.

Please look out for consumers by refusing to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly Beep". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eugene D. McDowell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
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Please look out for consumers by refusing to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Cone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christopher" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Cone".

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

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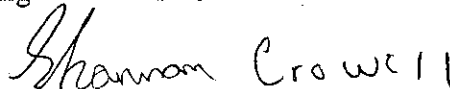
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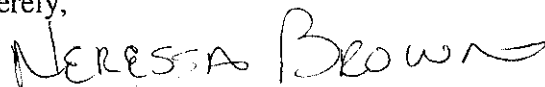
The FCC should **not** impose new access charges and fees upon prepaid calling cards. If you move to increase the cost of these cards, you will simply drive up the cost for minority or disadvantaged individuals to stay in touch in their communities.

The African-American community is particularly sensitive to any price increase for prepaid calling cards; approximately 70% of African American households have used them. Indeed, half of U.S. households with income below \$20,000 have used prepaid cards. Pre-paid cards are so prevalent in part because they save consumers money.

With other goods like gas and milk rising these days, we should not now be faced with rising telephone costs as well. In particular, many low-income households who are on fixed incomes depend upon prepaid service because they cannot meet the credit rating or hefty deposit requirements that local phone companies insist upon before getting a phone. With prepaid cards, consumers can make calls from payphones or the telephones of family members and neighbors. They can use these cards to stay "connected" as they look for jobs, hunt for housing, or schedule many of the other daily appointments that we all have.

I simply find it unimaginable that the FCC would impose new charges and fees on these cards. Some of the nation's largest telephone companies would be the largest recipients of such charges. **The FCC should stand up for consumers and make sure that these charges will not apply to prepaid calling cards.**

Sincerely,

NERESSA BROWN

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

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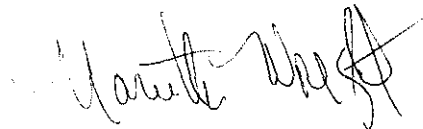
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Sincerely,

*Kawana Brown*

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Commissioner Kevin Martin  
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Please look out for consumers by refusing to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rep. Michael Copps", written in a cursive style.

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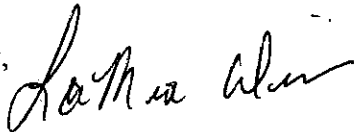
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. James Spitzer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "L. James" and the last name "Spitzer" clearly distinguishable.

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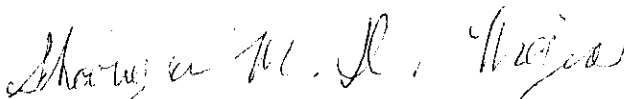
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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kevin Murphy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

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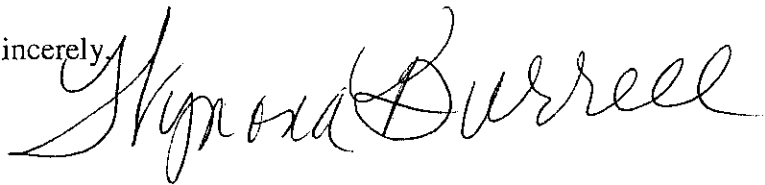
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stymond Burrrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stymond" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Burrrell".

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
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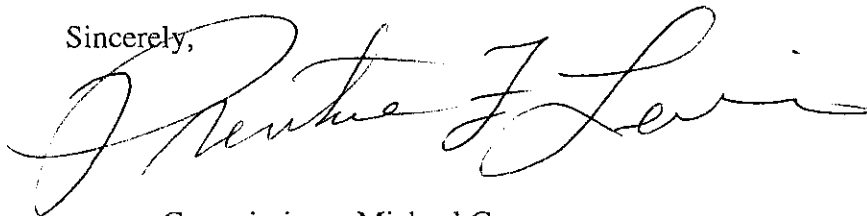
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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Reuben F. Levin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Adelstein", with a stylized, flowing script.

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
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Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

Minority communities living in urban areas rely upon low-cost telephone services to accomplish many every day tasks, from looking for a job or affordable housing to staying in touch with family and friends. I am concerned that the FCC is considering new charges and fees upon pre-paid calling cards, which would raise prices for consumers nationwide.

In particular, minority consumers living on fixed incomes or those without the means necessary to subscribe to local telephone service rely on prepaid calling cards to stay connected at set, affordable rates. Students, immigrants, senior citizens, military personnel, and others face similar challenges.

As a result, prepaid calling cards often are the only option available – without them, some consumers would, quite literally, be out of choices for staying connected. Raising the price of prepaid services will directly harm those that can least afford price increases.

Imposing new charges and fees would amount to a substantial increase in the per-minute cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards to many consumers in our community. Allowing the large, local telephone companies to collect such charges, even when they do not sell the calling card to a customer, would drive up prices and would make these services substantially less affordable.

Please look out for consumers by refusing to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Sincerely,



ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

July 22, 2004

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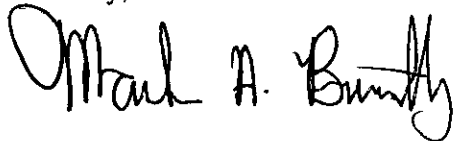
The FCC should **not** impose new access charges and fees upon prepaid calling cards. If you move to increase the cost of these cards, you will simply drive up the cost for minority or disadvantaged individuals to stay in touch in their communities.

The African-American community is particularly sensitive to any price increase for prepaid calling cards; approximately 70% of African American households have used them. Indeed, half of U.S. households with income below \$20,000 have used prepaid cards. Pre-paid cards are so prevalent in part because they save consumers money.

With other goods like gas and milk rising these days, we should not now be faced with rising telephone costs as well. In particular, many low-income households who are on fixed incomes depend upon prepaid service because they cannot meet the credit rating or hefty deposit requirements that local phone companies insist upon before getting a phone. With prepaid cards, consumers can make calls from payphones or the telephones of family members and neighbors. They can use these cards to stay "connected" as they look for jobs, hunt for housing, or schedule many of the other daily appointments that we all have.

I simply find it unimaginable that the FCC would impose new charges and fees on these cards. Some of the nation's largest telephone companies would be the largest recipients of such charges. **The FCC should stand up for consumers and make sure that these charges will not apply to prepaid calling cards.**

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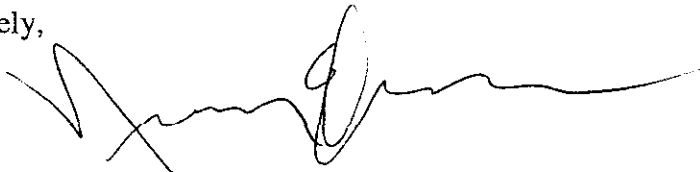
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. C. Copps" with a stylized flourish at the end.

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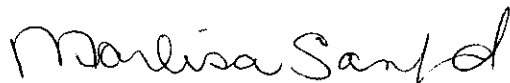
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